



Mental Health and Disability Services Redesign 2011

Children's Disability Workgroup Minutes

Meeting #6

October 25, 2011, 10:00 am to 3:15 pm

United Way of Central Iowa

Des Moines, IA 50314

MINUTES

Attendance

Workgroup Members: Jennifer Vermeer/Chair, Mark Peltan/Co-Chair, Marilyn Althoff, Gail Barber, Nicole Beaman, Paula Connelly, Julie Curry, Jim Ernst, Jason Haglund, Jan Heikes, Janice Lane, Marilyn Lantz, Samantha Murphy, Wendy Rickman, Rhonda Shouse, Jason Smith, David Stout, Debra Waldron

Legislative Representation: None

Facilitator: Kappy Madenwald, Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC)

DHS Staff: Laura Larkin, Don Gookin, Jennifer Harbison, Carmen Davenport

Other Attendees:

Ryan Bobst	Scott County Kids
Melissa Fitzgerald	Sequel Youth & Family Services
Sara Lupkes	PCHC
Lyle Krewson	Lutheran Services of Iowa
Sandi Jaques	Tanager Place
Vickie Miehe	CHSC
Vicki Vermie	Med Services -Telliger
Karen Baugher	Polk County Health Department
Deborah Thompson	LSA
David Adelman	IA AAP
Sheila Hansen	CFPC
Liz O'Hara	CDD
Kristie Oliver	Coalition
Nicole Rand	EPI

AGENDA

- Welcome
- Julie Curry presentation on Iowa Department of Education Priorities and Initiatives
- Multi-system readiness
 - Top 3-5 tasks/abilities/priorities for each child-serving system in preparation for children/youth returning to community
 - Juvenile Justice
 - Child Welfare
 - Educational System
- Timeline and key tasks for children's workgroup through December 2012
- Next Steps
- Meeting Summary
- Public Comment

WORKGROUP OVERVIEW

Julie Curry/Iowa Department of Education (DOE) shared the DOE's current priorities and initiatives. At this time the priorities include:

- Promoting social-emotional skills and positive cultures;
- Addressing challenging behaviors; and
- Enhancing a continuum of integrated supports for learning to promote student learning, healthy development, and success in school/life.

The Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development Initiative has focused on collecting data from an Iowa youth survey. At this time, the DOE has limited data on mental health information other than from those with depression and having suicidal thoughts/attempts. The Iowa DOE has received a federal grant to improve conditions for learning for all students and supporting students with mental health or other challenges. There are 45 schools that have been identified to participate in this initiative, with 80% of the federal funding earmarked for the schools to receive. The funding will be distributed according to what is needed in a particular school. A certain percentage of the participating schools are on a watch list of No Child Left Behind. The identified schools are listed on the Iowa DOE website.

DHS staff has been involved with the Iowa DOE in the Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development and have shared the Family Team Meeting (FTM) model as a template to engage families and increase family interaction. DECAT funding has been contributed to do the FTMs for students and families.

The Wrap Around Services initiative will continue without federal funding. This initiative does need financial support and is available to any child/youth returning from an out of home mental health placement.

The IDEA law is designed to serve the 10-12% of Iowa children/youth who are in special education. This translates to approximately 60,000 children/youth. A Functional

Behavioral Assessment (FBA) is required in special education for children/youth who present with challenging behaviors. The FBAs are to be complete by qualified personnel. The goal of the FBA is to prevent problems and promote social-emotional development for children/youth.

The FBA training has 3 levels of expertise:

- Level 1: Intermediate - can do the FBA with assistance.
- Level 2: Expert - can do the FBA without assistance and working more on this level now.
- Level 3: Consultants/Mentors - fluent/skilled users of FBA and can train others. This level is in the planning stages now. Purpose is to prevent out of school or out of state placements. Able to assess the child/youth and assess the treatment fidelity.

Children/youth in special education will also have a Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) plan. At this time, 110 Iowa school districts are using PBIS's. This translates into 380 school buildings in Iowa. By 2016, the goal is to have the PBIS used in 60% of the schools in Iowa. The Iowa DOE is currently developing a curriculum to develop a standardized tool to the PBIS.

The Iowa DOE has the goal to get two trained staff per Area Education Agency (AEA) to assess where a child/youth is on the intensity scale of their behaviors. When behaviors are intense, the goal is to bring in a Child Behavior Specialist (CBS) to help the child/youth address their behaviors, remain in school and be successful, and prevent out of home/community placements.

Workgroup members expressed the following regarding these plans:

- It could take a while to assemble a behavioral team to help the child/youth and family, particularly when the IEP is not working. There also needs to be some sense that the IEP has been implemented with some type of fidelity.
- This is not a process that has been adhered to for the most part. A child/youth may have a mental health diagnosis and not one AEA has helped to transition the child/youth back home and/or to the local school. It is also difficult to get an IEP for youth over the age of 12.
- A workgroup member's primary responsibility is to get IEPs for a child/youth that needs it. The parent needs to ask for the IEP. It is not an easy process, but it is possible to get an IEP for a child/youth over the age of 12.
- There is a concern about the children/youth that do not have parents and how do these students get IEPs.

Ms. Curry shared that this is an initiative in progress. This is part of a 3-5 year plan to have AEA experts/consultants in each AEA.

The Iowa DOE is also very aware of Zero Tolerance and the effect it has on children/youth. The Iowa school districts have latitude on how they implement this based on the philosophy of the faculty/staff in the school building, and individual policies and procedures within the school district.

There are also efforts to work with colleges and universities to develop a curriculum to help with a holistic transition plan for college bound youth. The transition planning could address issues related to medications, necessary ongoing supports, etc.

Jennifer Vermeer shared that the ID-DD workgroup has identified the need for behavior analysts, and the need to look at joining efforts and funding streams across systems. This would be a good opportunity to have DHS join with Iowa DOE to strengthen the efforts.

Jim Ernst shared that all organizations have funding devoted to staff training. He shared that it makes sense to join across systems to get the organizations on the same page. The core issues are very common across systems.

The Iowa DOE has a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with DHS child welfare that focuses on education for children/youth in foster care.

Jason Smith shared the Iowa Resource Centers have behavioral analysts and core competencies. He further reported that every foster parent in Illinois was trained on behavioral concepts and had to demonstrate competencies before they could become foster parents.

Learning supports are needed on a continuum of integrated supports for learning. Learning supports are the wide range of strategies, programs, services, and practices that are implemented to enhance student learning. The Iowa DOE is systematically focusing on each identified support: Instruction, Community Partnerships, Safe/Healthy/Caring Learning Environments, Child/Youth Engagement, Transitions, and Family Supports and Involvement.

Julie Curry spoke briefly about the data on graduation rates that were generated by DHS and another redesign workgroup. The Massachusetts Task Force also focused on graduation rates along with how the education and mental health system worked together. The Massachusetts Task Force gained familiarity with the System of Care and how it looks when systems collaborate.

The Blueprint for Education was discussed briefly with an emphasis being made on adding some populations groups to the Blueprint, such as Special Education, Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice, and Children's Mental Health system. Children/youth in these populations are not represented/addressed in the Blueprint or the Governor's Summit.

The discussion then segued into identifying three to five tasks/abilities/priorities for three child-serving systems. This was done in preparation for children/youth returning to the community.

The three child-serving systems are as follows:

Juvenile Justice

- Help examine what out of state placements did to stabilize children/youth.

- Help identify step-down programs in state, for example therapeutic foster homes, transitional living programs, etc.
- Training for JCOO's and Judges about importance of keeping kids in home and in-state.
- Help to get specialized training for staff to work with children/youth who have mental health conditions.
- Help incorporate a Trauma Assessment in the Iowa Delinquency Assessment.
- Help with expansion of Functional Family Therapy (FFT)

Child Welfare

- Develop capacity to focus specifically and intensively on this group of kids that are coming home. Right now responsibility is scattered across caseworkers.
- Conversations with Child Welfare contract providers—look at provider/contract flexibility to see where there is capacity and ability to serve this group of children/youth.
- Understand the flexibility of service array to move children/youth to a least restrictive environment/ using FSRP while a child/youth is in foster group care.
- Identify flexible funding for service gaps.
- Work on enhancing community partnerships, particularly with judges, the Drug Control Office, etc.
- Develop the culture of the community with every child/youth that is brought back to Iowa from out of state placement.
- Focus on permanency and the special issues unique to the child/youth.
- Focus on the engagement of the child/youth and the family to create the positive energy needed for them to be successful.
- Help with Transition Planning. These children/youth need comprehensive services not just mental health service.

Educational System

- Give schools access to experts.
- Establish a point of accountability within school districts and school buildings to ensure continuity in tracking children/youth.
- Credit Portability and Recovery.
- Fast tracked IEPs.
- Prepare to be part of a multi-team planning.
- Be thinking about crisis management.
- Resolve issue of IQ testing for children/youth.
- Help reconcile Zero Tolerance in schools.

Kappy spoke briefly about the Interim Report that will be presented of the Legislative Interim Committee. This report was being reviewed internally by DHS this week. Kappy, in conjunction with Julie Curry, will add information to the report about the information presented today on education.

The workgroup did ask that Kappy make minor changes to the report, which she did as the discussion was held.

Kappy led the group activity to work on the Children's Disability Services Redesign for CY 2012 Planning. The outcome of this activity can be found here:

http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/docs/ChildrensDisabilityWkgrpCY2012Planning_10-28-2011.pdf.

The workgroup was also asked to provide commentaries related to the overall workgroup process, the tasks they were charged with, and insights to consider in future planning. The commentaries can be found here:

http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/docs/Commentaries_by_Childrens_Workgroup_10-28-2011.pdf.

NEXT STEPS

This is our last meeting as a workgroup until the Legislative session begins. There may be a wrap up meeting in November 2011. If one is scheduled, workgroup members will be notified. This workgroup will meet again in April/May 2012, following the 2012 Iowa Legislative Session. This workgroup may add workgroup members, such as youth and parents.

The report will be reviewed by the Legislative Interim Committee, which will hold two meetings: November 17, 2011 and December 15, 2011. Workgroup members can track the outcome of the meetings via the Legislative website:

<http://www.legis.iowa.gov/Schedules/committee.aspx?GA=84&CID=541>.

The final report will be submitted by December 9, 2011. DHS staff was reviewing the report during this workgroup meeting and other meetings to review the report may follow.

This workgroup was tasked with identifying specific service recommendations to bring children/youth back to Iowa from out of state placements and to keep children/youth from needing out of state placements. There is a lot that we can do with the children's recommendations that do not require a lot of resources.

The PMIC workgroup will continue to meet, with a PMIC subgroup working on the reimbursement issue.

MEETING SUMMARY

- Presentation on Iowa DOE priorities and initiatives.
- Identified various tasks/abilities/priorities for three child-serving systems in preparation for children/youth returning to community.
- Identified priorities for the Children's Workgroup Redesign for CY 2012 Planning.
- Added information from the presentation on Iowa DOE to the initial report.
- Workgroup members provided commentaries related to the overall workgroup process and the tasks they were charged with.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Comment: The whole idea of engagement is very important when working with children/youth and families. Functional family therapy spends a great deal of time engaging with the family. All of the Systems of Care systems have to identify the champions of care and help us to be better at engaging with children/youth and families.

Comment: Polk County Health Services has been working with adult clients to develop positive behavior support plans/services when needed. This has helped to break down barriers with providers trying to work with clients.

For more information:

Handouts and meeting information for each workgroup will be made available at:
<http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/Partners/MHDSRedesign.html>

Website information will be updated regularly and meeting agendas, minutes, and handouts for the six redesign workgroups will be posted there.